



Ralph Snow, P.E.
DPW Commissioner
Christine Clancy, P.E.
City Engineer

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
FROM: Christine Clancy, P.E., City Engineer
Claire Ricker, Tiger Bridge Project Manager, DPD
DATE: August 9, 2019
RE: C. Leahy – Request City Manager update City Council on the Central Street Bridge Construction

The Central Street Bridge Reconstruction Project is part of the Tiger Project, in which the City will make repairs to five City bridges by April 2022. The City of Lowell has partnered with MassDOT for this construction work. Other stakeholders, such as the National Parks Service (NPS), Enel Green Power (Enel), and other private utility companies are participating in the construction coordination.

The Tiger Bridge Contractor, MAS Building, Inc. (MAS), mobilized in early summer 2019 to begin the Central Street over the Pawtucket Canal bridge work. The construction work zone includes a sidewalk closure on the east side of Central Street as well as an inbound lane closure. Given current weight restrictions on the bridge, heavy construction equipment cannot begin on the superstructure (deck) without first making repairs within the canal. Much of the repair work within the canal is concrete work, requiring a water level drawdown within the Pawtucket Canal. The water level drawdown was originally planned to be achieved by closing of an upstream gate. The contract agreement of this drawdown among stakeholders was for three months between June and September.

The canal drawdown was not successful, leaving approximately two feet of water within the canal. Preliminary cost estimates to dewater/pump the canal are estimated to be over \$1 million. Given the magnitude of this potential additional cost, the design and construction team are reviewing design alternatives to find a more cost-effective solution.

In addition to the unforeseen condition with the canal drawdown, additional unforeseen conditions include utility coordination delays within the canal and the need for additional structural analysis of adjacent canal components. With the three-month window to work within the canal closing in, and the inability to extend that window into the fall, The City and MassDOT have decided to demobilize from the site. All travel lanes will be restored and the east sidewalk is being evaluated to see if it can reopen. This demobilization effort is being coordinated with MassDOT, MAS, and other stakeholders and related costs associated with the demobilization are



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still be evaluated. Water levels are required per the contract agreement to be raised by September 5, 2019.

As for next steps beyond the demobilization, the construction team along with the design team will review design alternatives and consider associated costs to repair the Central Street bridge. Remobilization will likely occur either in the spring or summer of 2020. The City will provide updates as they become available.

Thank you

CC: Ralph Snow, DPW Commissioner